

## **TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY**

### **TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS**

- ✓ The Trade Act of 2002 gave “fast-track authority” or Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to the President. This allows the President to send implementing language for a trade agreement to Capitol Hill and the agreement is voted on in both Houses in an up or down vote – no amendments are allowed.
- ✓ The Administration’s Trade Promotion Authority expires on June 30, 2005 with respect to new agreements.
- ✓ Under the Trade Act of 2002, as amended by the Miscellaneous Trade Bill of 2004, the Administration must send to Congress any request for extension of TPA by April 1, 2005.
- ✓ The Administration sent its request for an extension and the reasoning why it is necessary to Congress on March 30, 2005.
- ✓ Once the Administration requests an extension, any Member of Congress may introduce an “extension disapproval resolution” before July 1, 2005. The text of the resolution, which is non-amendable, is set forth in statute.
- ✓ The resolution is referred to House Committees of jurisdiction – Ways and Means and Rules. House floor consideration of the disapproval resolution may occur only if the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Rules have reported it out; there is no automatic discharge mechanism to the House.
- ✓ If the Committees report the legislation to the House, the resolution is highly privileged on the House floor and is not amendable – limited debate, no substitutes.
- ✓ If either House of Congress approves an extension disapproval resolution, then TPA is not extended.
- ✓ If Congress does not act on the disapproval resolution by June 30, 2005, TPA is automatically extended for two more years – until June 30, 2007.

### **THE LAST TIME CONGRESS VOTED ON TPA**

- ✓ On July 27, 2002, the House passed the conference report for H.R. 3009 – which gave the Administration TPA by a 215-212 vote. 190 Republicans and 25 Democrats voted Yes.